

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 199895 TOSEC 100038

43

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /016 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:PKJOHNSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:PKJOHNSON

----- 031079

O 221334Z AUG 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO DIA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 199895 TOSEC 100038

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 4796, SENT SECSTATE, INFO BONN, LONDON,
MADRID, MOSCOW, PARIS, STOCKHOLM, NATO, AUGUST 22:

QUOTE S E C R E T LISBON 4796

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS INFO DIA WASHDC, USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER AND
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

E.O. 11652/ XGDS-4

TAGS:, PINT, PO

SUBJ: MESSAGE FROM THE PALACE OF BELEM

1. AT 10:30 P.M., AUGUST 21, 1975, MAJOR ANTONIO CALDAS,
SENIOR AIDE TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, DROPPED IN AT THE DATT'S
HOME FOR AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE HAD
INFORMATION TO BE RELAYED TO THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO HIS
MEETING WITH COSTA GOMES ON AUGUST 22. IT WAS NEVER MADE CLEAR
EXACTLY WHO WAS SPONSORING THE MESSAGE. A REASONABLE GUESS
IS FERREIRA DA CUNHA.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 199895 TOSEC 100038

2. IT WAS CONSIDERED ADVISABLE THAT THE AMBASSADOR KNOW
THE FOLLOWING:

A. ON AUGUST 20 GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO HAD
SENT A LETTER TO VASCO GONCALVES SAYING THAT GONCALVES COULD
NO LONGER CONSIDER HIMSELF TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE AFM AND
THAT HE SHOULD MAKE PLANS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE GOVERNMENT BY THE
END OF THE WEEK.

B. ALTHOUGH COSTA GOMES WILL NOT RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH
THE AMBASSADOR, IT IS COSTA GOMES'S INTENT THAT VASCO
GONCALVES RESIGN HIS POSITION NLT MONDAY, AUGUST 25.

C. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MOTIVATED THE DECISION TO
DROP VASCO GONCALVES WAS THE ULTIMATUM (PRESUMABLY OTELO-ANTUNES)
SUPPORTED BY GENERALS CHARAIS AND FEZARATT CORREIA,
REGIONAL COMMANDERS, THAT UNLESS VASCO GONCALVES WAS REMOVED,
A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL WOULD BE FORMED IN THE
NORTH AND PREPARATIONS MADE FOR A MARCH ON LISBON.

D. DATT ATTEMPTED TO ASCERTAIN THE PROBABLE HEAD OF
THE NEW GOVERNMENT. CALDAS WAS UNSURE BUT SAID IN HIS
OPINION VITOR CRESPO, FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER OF MOZAMBIQUE,
WAS A FRONT RUNNER.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, I MAY MODIFY MY TALKING
POINTS DEPENDING ON HOW THE CONVERSATION PROCEEDS. THERE IS
NO POINT IN LAYING INTO COSTA GOMES IF HE HAS FINALLY DONE WHAT
WE HAVE BEEN URGING. NEVERTHELESS I WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE
ARE CONCERNED, AND THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE POINTS
MADE IN THE MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. THE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT, THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT, MY CONSULTATION AND MY
REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT HAVE ALL HELPED; IF NOTHING ELSE
THEY PROMITED CALDAS TO PROVIDE US WITH INFORMATION THAT IS
OBVIOUSLY BEING CLOSELY HELD. COSTA GOMES MAY ALSO WANT TO
BE ABLE TO SAY THAT HE ACTED BEFORE THE USG EXERTED DIRECT
PRESSURE ON HIM. CARLUCCI UNQUOTE. MAW

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ARMED FORCES, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE199895
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:PKJOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750291-0342
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750826/aaaaawmw.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE PALACE OF BELEM
TAGS: PINT, MPOL, PO, (VASCO GONCALVES)
To: SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006